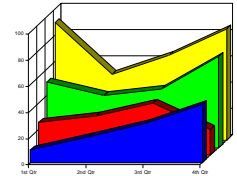


October 1996

OPERATING EXPERIENCE ANALYSIS



ES&H Performance Indicator Report Issued

You can find our second quarterly report of the Department's ES&H Performance Indicators on the web at <http://www.eh.doe.gov/pi>. This report, issued August 29, 1996 covers the time period through March 1996. We are committed to reducing this time lag to 90 days.

Performance Indicator Data System

Many of you have been asking for more timely access to our DOE ES&H Performance Measures than provided by our quarterly report. In response to our customers' requests, we have developed the Performance Indicator Data System (PIDS), a webbed-based up-to-the-minute access to ES&H PI's. Of course the data will not come with our analysis of the trends, and the timeliness is only as good as the source (ORPS=24 hours, Rad Exposure=1 year). The effort commenced in late April 1996. Within a couple of weeks, we will be starting a beta test/evaluation by selected DOE HQ and operations office individuals. By early November 1996, we expect that the following Performance Indicators (PIs) will be searchable:

- Radiological Events
- Safety System Actuations
- Procedure Violations
- Safety Equipment Degradation
- Near Misses and Safety Concerns
- Lost Workday Case Rate
- Lost Workday Incident Rate
- Total Recordable Case Rate
- Occupational Safety and Health Cost Index
- Reportable Occurrences of Release to the Environment

The selected PI can either be displayed in tabular form or as a bar chart. As an option, the PI data can be downloaded either as an ASCII text file or inserted directly into a wordprocessor or

spreadsheet through the Windows Cut & Paste capability.

Additional PIs and enhanced graphics capabilities will be provided by the end of 1996.

Pu Vulnerability Reduction Measures

Along with you, we recognize a shortage of corporate information that demonstrates whether DOE is getting safer. As explained in the introduction to our ES&H PI Report, one area in which we are interested is "level of hazard of operations and material at risk." A team effort is underway to develop pilot measures to monitor relative changes in Plutonium (Pu) vulnerability reduction that result from material stabilization and dispositioning activities. This project, initiated by EH-33 in June, has the support of EM and DP. The team has developed a methodology that will allow Pu material in different states to be translated into associated vulnerability reductions. The methodology characterizes Pu vulnerability reductions in terms of stabilization units which correlate with the vulnerabilities identified in the Pu Vulnerability Working Group Report. The methodology will provide a consistent basis for comparing sites and facilities and will serve as a more direct monitor of how safety is improving. As a further benefit, the methodology may provide a tool for management to prioritize stabilization activities by their potential for vulnerability reduction per unit cost.

Occurrence Reporting Changes

Recent changes to the ORPS Order and Manual require the reporting of ALL defective items, materials, and services, not just those that result in a substantial safety hazard. This was a decision made by Under Secretary Grumbly based on a recommendation from the Senior Managers Task Group on Counterfeit/Suspect Items. We discussed

this with many of you during our Customer Focus Meetings held at each Operations Office this past Spring.

In addition, we expect to send out a draft revision to the ORPS Order and Manual soon. The revision, for issuance this Fall, will accommodate the forthcoming Occurrence Reporting Rule. This will mostly rearrange material with few substantive changes.

Occurrence Reporting Vital to DOE

At a recent Department Standards Committee meeting, Dr. Tara O'Toole, Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health, spoke on the importance of ORPS data to the Department's safety management. She addressed the recent trend of a few organizations to stop ORPS reporting citing the Work Smart Standards process as justification. Dr. O'Toole stressed the value of ORPS data in defending the Department's record and in providing trusted, comprehensive data for management decision making. Participants came away with a new understanding of the role ORPS plays in managing the Department, apart from its considerable value in managing their own systems. One organization was moved to reconsider the outcome of their Work Smart Standards process. They understood that even though ORPS may not be "necessary" to ensure safety of local processes and systems, it is a "vital" management system for the Department as a whole.

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